(*b*) Total amount for which the cattle market was
auctioned for 1120. Rs. 3,900
Do. Do. 1121. Rs. 4,730

(*c*) No.

(*d*) In view of the answer to part (*c*), this question does not arise.

Cattle for ploughing.

83. ❊ **Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the average number of cattle necessary for ploughing satisfactorily one acre of wet land for a single crop;

(*b*) the number of cattle fit and available for ploughing in the whole State in 1120; and

(*c*) the number of total acreage of land in the State in which paddy was cultivated after ploughing?

Mr T. C. Kochunni Pillai: (*a*) Ten pairs of cattle (for five ploughings).

(*b*) 2,81,237 bullocks and 54,529 buffaloes according to the Cattle Census taken in January 1945.

(*c*) About 6,00,400 acres.

Manure for ryots.

84. ❊ **Mr. A. N. Satyanesan**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the arrangements made for the distribution of manure to cultivators at cheap rates; and

(*b*) the number of cultivators who have taken advantage hitherto of the facility offered?

Mr. T.C. Kochunni Pillai: (*a*) Manure depots have been established at nearly 50 important centres in the State for the stocking and sale of manure to cultivators at subsidised rates. Chemical manures and organic manures have been procured from the Government of India and also with the assistance of the other administrations for distribution to cultivators. Manures for paddy, tapioca and other food crops are sold to *bona fide* ryots at 2/3 cost price, the loss on this account being borne by Government. Compost manure produced from town refuse and night soil is sold on a large scale from 15 Municipalities in the State. Government have sanctioned the issue of free passes to cultivators for the collection of green leaf and leaf mould from reserve forests.

(*b*) 1011 cultivators have taken advantage hitherto of the recent reduction in prices.

Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai: May I know the total number of manure depots in the State?

Mr. T. C. Kochunni Pillai: There are 60 depots.

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Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai: May I know whether there are depots in every taluk?

Mr. T. C. Kochunni Pillai: Yes.

Mr. K. A. Raman Pillai: May I know whether the member is aware that the supply of manure in some of the depots falls short of the requirements?

Mr. T. C. Kochunni Pillai: Yes, Sir.

Manure for farmers.

85. * **Mr. A. N. Satyanesan:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the arrangements that have been made to distribute manure to cultivators at cheap rates; and

(*b*) how far the people are taking advantage of the concession offered?

Mr. T. C. Kochunni Pillai: (*a*) The member is referred to the answer to part (a) of question No. 84 above.

(*b*) People are taking full advantage of the concessions offered.

Cultivation of Plantain.

86. * **Mr. A. N. Satyanesan:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Agricultural Department has estimated the total acreage now under plantain cultivation in the State; and

(*b*) whether in view of the shortage of foodstuffs, the Department has adopted any measures for the development of plantain cultivation?

Mr. T. C. Kochunni Pillai: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

Fruit tree cultivation.

87. * **Mr. A. N. Satyanesan:** Will the Government be pleased to state the area at present under fruit tree cultivation by the Agricultural Department?

Mr. T. C. Kochunni Pillai: 17 acres.

Non-pensionable Employees.

88. * **Mr. N. Narayana Kurup:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the pay and scales of pay of contingency (non-pensionable) employees in the various departments have been generally increased or revised during the last three years;

(*b*) whether the recent revision of scales of pay has in any instance been extended to such contingency employees of Government;

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